THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai had acquired 128 acres of land, at Dighi, Taluk Shrivardhan, District Raigad, Maharashtra, on lease of 95 years from SICOM, a State Government Undertaking, in the year 1982 for developing a ship construction/ship repair yard. This 128 acres of land comprises of 14.5 acres of Government land and 113.5 acres of private land. MDL commenced development work in 1983 itself which was stopped under orders of the State Government pending Environmental Clearnace.

Due to non-clearance from the Ministry of Environment (Gol), MDL could not proceed with the Project even after getting Environmental clearance from the State Government in the year 1988. In 1996, SICOM, at the behest of Government of Maharashtra, initiated proceedings for resumption of the land as MDL had not utilised the land for the intended purpose at that date. In January 2003, District Collector, Raigad issued a Resumption Order pertaining to the 14.5 acres of Government land.

Both MDL and the Ministry of Defence have taken up the matter with the Government of Maharashtra at the highest level to restore the land to MDL. As a result, the District Collector, Raigad, on the advice of the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, has given a stay on his order dated 17.1.2003 w'dehis letter dated 21.1.2003.The matter is under review by the State Government of Maharashtra.

Raising of additional battalions of army

1406. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Wiil the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the increasing role of Army in counter insurgency duties, Government has decided to raise additional battalions of Army, particularly for posting along the border;

(b) if so, the number of battalions to be raised;

(c) whether certain extra allowance will be paid to those posted in counter insurgency duties; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for raising additional battalions of the regular army. However, it is proposed to raise seven battalions of Territorial Army for deployment in the Northern Command in aid of army and other security forces in the J&K.

(c) and (d) Personnel of the army deployed in counter insurgency duties are entitled to a special allowance known as Special Compensatory (Counter Insurgency) Allowance (SCCIA).The allowance is in seven tiers ranging from Rs. 1000/- p.m. to Rs. 3700/- p.m. depending on the rank of personnel (Other Ranks to Lt. Colonel). The amount of allowance is in three grades determined by the hardship factor and intensity of operations in the area of deployment.

Induction of Agni Missile

†1407. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the types ot missiles which have been successfully tested so far under the Missile Programme of the country;

(b) the range of surface to surface Agni Missile successfully tested so far; and

(c) by when the Agni Missile will be handed over to Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) All the guided missiles being developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) have gone through successful flight trials. Prithvi I has been completed and inducted. Prithvi II and Dhanush are in progress of induction in Army, Air Force and Navy respectively. Akash and Nag have gone through successful flight tests recently. Nag, anti tank missile, has been proved for day and night capability with advanced technology seeker. Agni and Brah Mos have been flight tested recently.

(b) Two versions of Agni Missile system *i.e.* Agni-I & II have been flight tested. Agni-I has a range of 700 km and Agni-ll has a range of 2000 km.

(c) Agni Missile system is under production and induction phase.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.